

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A base pad for supporting a product, the base pad comprising an elongated hollow tubular member having a plurality of segments joined along fold lines, the tubular member being folded along the fold lines into a polygonal frame having corners, and a first vertical section extending upward from a product supporting surface to form a shelf in which the product can nest.
2. (currently amended) The base pad of claim 1 further comprising L-shaped pockets formed in the hollow tubular member at one or more corners, the pockets being configured to receive vertical stacking and cushioning posts.
3. (currently amended) The base pad of claim 1 further comprising holes disposed in the product supporting surface distant the fold lines for receiving product feet.
4. (original) The base pad of claim 1 wherein, prior to folding, the tubular member is linear and comprises substantially V-shaped cut out sections interposed between the segments with one of the fold lines being located at the apex of each cutout section.
5. (currently amended) The base pad of claim 1 wherein the tubular member comprises outer and inner walls joined at their ends to define a hollow space therebetween, the outer wall comprises a horizontal section and a vertical section joined at a right angle to define an outer apex, the outer wall horizontal section forming a bottom surface of the base pad, and the inner wall comprises ~~a first vertical section joined at a~~

~~right angle to the product support surface to define an inner corner and a top section~~
extending from the first vertical section to the outer wall vertical section.

6. (original) The base pad of claim 5 wherein the outer wall horizontal section has an integrally formed bead extending upward toward the product support surface.

7. (original) The base pad of claim 5 wherein, at one or more corners, portions of the top section have been removed to create pockets for receiving vertical stacking and cushioning posts.

8. (withdrawn) A method of making a base pad for cushioning and supporting a product comprising the steps of:

forming a tube into a desired cross-sectional shape;

cutting V-shaped sections out of the tube; and

folding the tube at the V-shaped sections and bringing the opposite ends together to form a base pad.

9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of attaching the opposite ends after they are brought together.

10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of forming a pocket in one or more corners of the frame for receiving vertical stacking and cushioning posts.

11. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of forming holes in the frame to allow feet of the product to protrude into the frame to position the product on the base pad.
12. (new) The base pad of claim 1 wherein the elongated hollow tubular member is formed from wound paperboard.
13. (new) The base pad of claim 1 wherein the elongated hollow tubular member is formed from extruded plastic.